

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4. (Withdrawn)

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A process for filtering a feed water comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a tank containing modules of filtering membranes;
- (b) introducing a feed water to the tank to keep the modules immersed in feed water in the tank;
- (c) withdrawing a filtered permeate from the modules;
- (d) withdrawing a retentate from the tank;
- (e) introducing air bubbles into the water in the tank to inhibit fouling of the membranes, the air bubbles also causing a gas to be liberated from the water in the tank; and
- (f) collecting the gas liberated from the water in the tank in step (e) and returning the collected gas to the tank by way of the air bubbles.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 5 wherein the collected gas includes carbon dioxide.

Claim 7. (Original) The process of claim 6 wherein 80% or more of the carbon dioxide liberated from the water in the tank is returned to the tank.

Claim 8. (Original) The process or claim 7 wherein the feed water in the tank has scaling tendencies.

Claim 9. (Original) The process of claim 7 wherein the feed water has a Langlier-Scaling Index of greater than 0.5 before being introduced into the tank.

Claim 10. (Original) The process of claim 7 further comprising the step of adding coagulants to the feed water in the tank.

Claim 11. (Withdrawn)

Claim 12. (New) The process of claim 5, wherein some of the gas liberated from the water in the tank in step (e) is collected and returned to the tank in step (f) and some of the gas is vented to the atmosphere.